

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-6

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AROUND THE NATION

CIA, ABC Accused of Defamation

■ LOS ANGELES—The southern California chapter of Americans for Democratic Action filed a \$170 million lawsuit alleging that the CIA, ABC News and military officials defamed a man who claims to be a former agent.

The political action group filed the suit in federal court on behalf of Scott Barnes. The suit stems from an ABC "World News Tonight" interview with Barnes last September in which Barnes said the CIA ordered him to kill another operative, Ronald Rewald, in Hawaii. Barnes said he refused to carry out the order.

ABC later retracted the story, and the ADA's suit alleges that the CIA forced the network to do so. Spokesmen for the network and the CIA declined to comment.